

## Claims

1. Method for operating a communication terminal for packet-oriented data transmission, where

- 5    - at least one piece of status information is stored, for a communication terminal, in a memory unit associated with the communication terminal,
- said status information is provided with a digital signature that is calculated from the status information by means of a private key for an asymmetrical encoding method associated with a first control unit associated with the communication terminal for the resolution and/or conversion of network addresses,
- 10   - if the first control unit fails, a request is transmitted comprising the status information and the digital signature to associate the communication terminal with at least one second control unit and the digital signature is checked,
- 15   - in the event of a positive check result, the communication terminal is associated with the second control unit.

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2. Method according to claim 1,  
where the one piece of status information at least is updated at a predefinable time upon the initiation of the first or second control unit.

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3. Method according to one of claims 1 or 2,  
where the digital signature is calculated from a hash value ascertained for the status information.

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4. Method according to claim 3,  
where a hash value is calculated for the status information for the purposes of checking the digital signature and said hash

value is compared for a match with a digital signature decoded by using a public key associated with the first control unit.

5. Method according to one of claims 3 or 4,

5 where a message digest no. 5 algorithm is used for calculating the digital signature.

6. Control program for operating a communication terminal for packet-oriented data transmission, which can be loaded into a  
10 working memory of a computing facility and displays at least one block of code, in the execution of which

- at least one piece of status information is stored, for a communication terminal, in a memory unit associated with the communication terminal,
- 15 - said status information is provided with a digital signature that is calculated from the status information by means of a private key for an asymmetrical encoding method associated with a first control unit associated with the communication terminal for the resolution and/or conversion of network  
20 addresses,
- if the first control unit fails, a request is transmitted comprising the status information and the digital signature to associate the communication terminal with at least one second control unit and a check of the digital signature is  
25 initiated,
- in the event of a positive check result, the association of the communication terminal with the second control unit is initiated,

if the control program is running on the computing facility.